



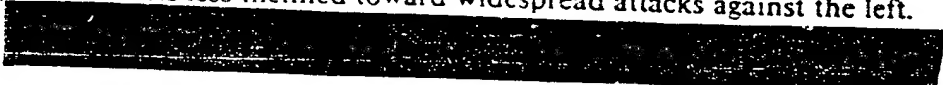
Top Secret

### HAITI: Leftist Gains Increase Concern

Popular support for radical leftist priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide's presidential bid has surged since mid-October, leaving opponents grappling with how to counter his candidacy. Aristide attracted as many as 130,000 people in two recent rallies. Most business leaders believe an Aristide victory would be "disastrous" and are providing substantial funding to centrist and moderate leftist candidates.



 Military and business leaders probably hope Aristide can be stopped without resorting to violence or canceling the election. The military's reluctance to endorse violence is likely to make Duvalierists less inclined toward widespread attacks against the left.



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Pages: last page

Exemptions: (b)(1)